

Message Text

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TAGS: SNAR VE

SUBJ: SEMI-ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY REPORT ON NARCOTICS
CONTROL

REF: STATE A-4700

1. DURING FIRST HALF CY74 THERE WERE NO ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS MADE WITH GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA UNDER THE NARCOTICS APPROPRIATION OF FAA, NOR WERE THERE ANY NEW OBLIGATIONS OR PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT. TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS WERE THOSE OF MAINTAINING ONE PUBLIC SAFETY NARCOTICS ADVISOR AT POST. A TOTAL OF 143 VENEZUELANS WERE TRAINED IN COUNTRY BY PUBLIC SAFETY; 16 VENEZUELAN WERE TRAINED IN U.S., 5 BY DEA, 4 BY CUSTOMS, 5 BY OPS AND 2 BY SAO.

2. DURING SECOND QUARTER OF CY74, FOLLOWING
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DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED, THE HIGH POINT BEING DECISION

BY GOV TO MOVE TOWARD FAR-REACHING REORGANIZATION OF ITS ENTIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURE, INCLUDING NARCOTICS CONTROL, AND SPECIFIC REQUEST BY GOV TO DEA FOR ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREPARING REORGANIZATION. WE ARE PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES ON OUR RESPONSE TO GOV.

A) ABUSE. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE CHANGE DURING THE QUARTER, THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS BEING MARIJUANA AND COCAINE. EVIDENCES OF INCREASING SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS INTO VENEZUELA FROM COLOMBIA SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONSUMPTION IN VENEZUELA IS GROWING, BUT THERE IS AS YET NO CONCLUSIVE DATA PROVING AN UPWARD TREND. THE HOST COUNTRY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LOCAL ABUSE PROBLEM IS THAT OF A CONCERNED GOVERNMENT BECOMING AWARE OF THE POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF WIDESPREAD DRUG ABUSE.

B) PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. THERE IS NO KNOWN CULTIVATION OF PROCESSING OF OPIUM OR COCA/COCAINE IN VENEZUELA. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF ISOLATED DISCOVERIES OF OPIUM POPPY AND COCA GROWING IN THEIR NATURAL STATE IN THE ANDEAN AREA IN WESTERN VENEZUELA, INDICATING A POTENTIAL FUTURE PROBLEM IN NARCOTIC PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IF THERE WERE A SERIOUS APPLICATION OF WILL AND TECHNOLOGY TO SUCH AN EFFORT.

C) TRAFFICKING TRENDS. VENEZUELA'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, ITS LONG AND EASILY PENETRABLE BOUNDARY WITH COLOMBIA AND RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF SMALL AIRPORTS, SEA PORTS AND COASTAL LANDING PLACES AND INTERNATIONAL AIR AND SURFACE TRAVEL CONNECTIONS MAKE VENEZUELA AN ATTRACTIVE TRANSIT AREA FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS. ADDITIONALLY, THERE MAY BE SOME SMUGGLING TO SUPPLY THE STILL RELATIVELY MODEST LOCAL CONSUMPTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS.

D) ENFORCEMENT. THE GOV BEGAN SERIOUS PREPARATIONS FOR WHAT MAY BE A FAR-REACHING OVERHAUL OF THE NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURE, INCLUDING NARCOTICS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROL. IT APPOINTED A HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL COMMISSION TO PREPARE A STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS; MEANWHILE, VENEZUELAN TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE SOLICITED ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DEA, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IN FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION. THERE IS NO TIMETABLE FOR DECISION MAKING BY THE GOV, BUT THERE IS EXPECTATION THAT GOV WILL MAKE UP ITS MIND WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ON WHETHER AND

HOW TO CARRY OUT ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM. DURING THE QUARTER THE CARACAS METROPOLITAN POLICE RECEIVED NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY (IN ADDITION TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY) AND SET OFF WITH A VIGOROUS ARREST AND SEIZURE ACTIVITY, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME REINFORCEMENT OF THE PTJ NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORT REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD. THERE WERE NO IMPORTANT JOINT OPERATIONS BETWEEN DEA AND VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL SEIZURES, BUT THERE WERE INSTANCES OF KILOGRAM QUANTITIES OF COCAINE SEIZED AFTER DEPARTURE FROM VENEZUELA, THE MOST RECENT BEING A 15 KILOGRAM SEIZURE AT CUARACAO. WITH SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PTJ HAS DEVELOPED A NATIONAL POLICE COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY AND PLAN, IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. A COMPETENT AND ENERGETIC YOUNG OFFICIAL, DR. MANUEL MOLINA, TOOK OVER SUB-DIRECTOR OF THE PTJ.

E) TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. SIX CENTERS OPERATED IN VENEZUELA; THREE PRIVATE, THREE GOVERNMENT-OPERATED. NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED.

F) TRAINING. OF THE TRAINING MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE, 45 OF THOSE TRAINED LOCALLY DURING THE SEMESTER RECEIVED THEIR TRAINING DURING THE SECOND QUARTER. FIVE OF THE 16 TRAINED IN THE U.S. WERE TRAINED IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

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G) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. THE GOV SENT A 15-MAN DELEGATION TO THE REGIONAL INTERPOL CONFERENCE AT PANAMA, WHERE IT TOOK A LEADERSHIP ROLE.

H) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY HAS ASKED GOV FOR ITS APPROVAL OF THE RE-LOCATION OF THE DEA REGIONAL OFFICE FROM BUENOS AIRES TO CARACAS, AND IS AWAITING ITS OFFICIAL RESPONSE. AS NOTED UNDER SUB-PARAGRAPH D, THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE WITH COOPERATION OF DEA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, IS MAKING COORDINATED EFFORT TO COMPLETE THE REQUESTED COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE VENEZUELAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.
MCCLINTOCK

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